Silver pitcher, presented Sept. 25, 1863 by the Ladies of Carlisle, Pennsylvania to General William Farrar Smith, as a testimonial of their appreciation of his "firmness, gallantry and skill as manifested in the defense of this town on the night of the 1st of July 1863 . . . . for saving us from the plundering of a rebel soldiery and from the humiliation of a town surrendered with national and local defenders within, and also for giving them occasion for the feeling of a patriotic pride in the knowledge of their own homes being successfully defended against a cruel marauding foe." William Farrar Smith, Major General, United States Volunteers in the Civil War, was born in St. Albans, Vermont in 1824. Gen. Smith was made an honorary member of the Vermont Historical Society on Oct. 14, 1902. Gift of his son, Stuart Farrar Smith of Washington, D. C.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE, 1950

Yes, we are continuing our drive for new members into 1950. And again we ask that you who have not sent in your nominations, drop us a card today. If you have suggestions for increasing our membership, we shall be pleased to receive them too.

Mr. James Dewey of Quechee (Vermont) sent us in names, addresses and dues from 22 persons — in one week!

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY STATE HOUSE MONTPELIER

Leon S. Gay, President; Earle W. Newton, Director.

Telephone: Montpelier 1500, Extension 39.

VHS *News and Notes*

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

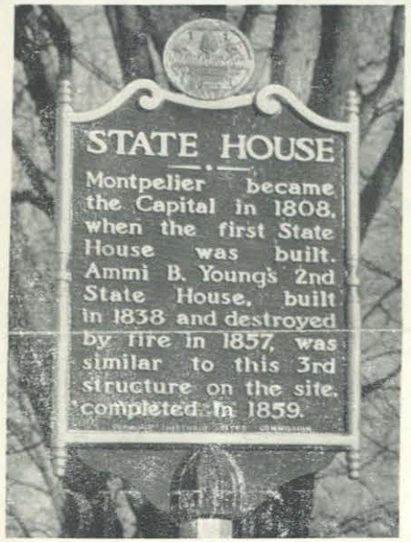
Montpelier, Vermont

Sec. 34.66
P. L. & R.

VHS *News and Notes*

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ISSUED BY THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 1 FEBRUARY, 1950 NUMBER 6


STATE HOUSE
Montpelier became the Capital in 1808, when the first State House was built. Ammi B. Young's 2nd State House, built in 1838 and destroyed by fire in 1857, was similar to this 3rd structure on the site, completed in 1859.

HISTORY BY THE WAYSIDE

The illustration will give you an idea of the historic site markers which have been set up throughout Vermont by the Historic Sites Commission as near as possible to actual historic sites. These markers are not the usual bronze plaques, but are of deep green with gold lettering, surmounted by the state seal, and are set at right angles to the road, so that traffic passing in either direction can get a clear view of the text.

The purpose of these markers is not commemorative, but informative. Their basic aim is to give the traveler an introduction to the rich historical heritage of the Green Mountain State, and to assist him in making historical tours. Subjects celebrated by the signs are birthplaces and homes of famous statesmen, inventors, writers, and other illustrious sons of Vermont, battle sites, historic houses, forts, pathways and the scenes of well remembered events.

You are probably wondering why we are launching into an explanation of these plaques—in February. It is because the illustrated guide *Historic Vermont* has just been published, carrying a more comprehensive story than space on the marker itself would allow.

If you would like one, drop us a line. They will be distributed free of charge, just as long as the supply lasts.

ANNUAL MEETING—VHS

Many of you have inquired about the annual meeting. No, the September conference at Burlington did not take its place. Since President and Mrs. Leon S. Gay are in Africa, it was decided that the meeting would be held on Friday, May 12th, after their return. We'll give you full details later—but please keep it in mind and plan to attend.

While Mr. Gay is gone, Professor Arthur W. Peach is acting as our president, and handling the many affairs of the office most competently.

BOOK DIVIDENDS

Sustaining members are entitled to a book dividend upon joining, and one each year, without charge. For those of you who selected that class of membership in the Society (yearly dues, $5.00), we are listing the publications now available:

STUDIES AND ESSAYS IN VERMONT HISTORY

Chittenden, Lucius. *The Capture of Ticonderoga.* Documents, text, and notes. 1872. 172 pp., cloth.

Davenport, Walter Rice. *Biography of Thomas Davenport, the "Brandon Blacksmith," Inventor of the Electric Motor.* 1929. 165 pp., illus., index, cloth.

Essays in the Early History of Vermont. 1944. 317 pp., cloth.

Essays in the Social and Economic History of Vermont. 1944. 348 pp., cloth.

Kent, D. B. E. *Vermonters.* 1937. 187 pp., cloth.

The Upper Connecticut: Narratives of Its Settlement and Its Part in the Revolution. 1943. 2 vols., 300 pp., 286 pp.

Waite, Frederick Clayton. *The Story of a Country Medical College: A History of the Clinical School of Medicine and The Vermont Medical College, Woodstock, Vermont,* 1827-1856. 1945. 213 pp., illus., cloth.

Williams, Samuel. *Vremont during the War for Independence (a Contemporary account): Being Three Chapters from the Author's "Natural & Civil History of Vermont" Published in* 1794: *Now Reproduced in full Facsimile a Century and a Half Later from the First Edition for the Edification of All Who Gratefully Share the Heritage of the Green Mountain Republic.*
Published by Burges Johnson, Schenectady, N. Y. 1944. 104 pp., wrappers.

Batcheller, B. C. *People of Wallingford.* 1937. 328 pp., cloth.

Cudworth, A. E. *History of Londonderry.* 1936. 288 pp., cloth.

Newton, E. H. *History of Marlborough.* 1930. 330 pp., cloth.

Newton, J. M. *History of Barnard.* 1928. 2 vols., 879 pp., cloth.

Vail, Henry H. *History of Pomfret.* 1930. 2 vols., 687 pp., cloth. Profusely illustrated, folding maps.

REFERENCE WORKS

Clark, Bryon N. *List of Pensioners of the War of* 1812. 1904.

Cooley, Elizabeth F. *Vermont Imprints Before* 1800, *an Introductory Essay on the History of Printing in Vermont, with a List of Imprints,* 1779-1799. 1937. 133 pp., buckram.

Heads of Families, Second Census of the United States: 1800. *The State of Vermont.* 1938. 233 pp., folio, cloth.

COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT

Did you know that no new funds have been added to the endowment of the Society for nearly a quarter of a century? The sharply increasing costs of the work now being done, and which you all have been so willing to voice your approval of, as well as the cost of the work that should be done, must be met. Letters are being prepared for probate judges and other members of the legal profession in Vermont, which we hope will be brought to the attention of persons who are planning bequests to non-profit educational institutions.

A newly formed committee, whose immediate task is to raise funds for current use and for endowment, is headed by Vrest Orton of Weston. Working with him are Luman B. Howe of Montpelier, Col. John McDill of Woodstock, Dr. A. W. Peach of Northfield, Mortimer R. Proctor and Curtis R. Smith of St. Albans.

Won't you become interested in the work of this committee? Won't you send in names and suggestions as to where funds may be available and how such funds may become directed towards the needs of the Society?

It will be heartbreaking if we cannot raise the funds and are forced to curtail the work of the V. H. S. We are most sincere and are not crying "Wolf".

GREEN MOUNTAIN FOLKLORE SOCIETY

We gather from your letters that you are enthusiastic about the new feature in the last issue of the *Vermont Quarterly*. We are pleased to tell you that this folklore department will continue in forthcoming issues, under the editorship of Professor Leon W. Dean, President of the Green Mountain Folklore Society.

This group is now a little over a year and a half old and growing all the time. It began when a group of teachers attending summer school at the University in Burlington decided they wanted a course in Vermont folklore as a background for some of their teaching.

The folklore contained in the *Quarterly* is contributed by members of the G. M. F. S. but Leon Dean tells us that he will be glad to have your contributions.

HAIL TO THE FRANKLIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As a move to keep historical material with the State and to encourage an interest in the local history of the community, Franklin County has a newly formed historical society. The second meeting was held this month, with Lawrence Oliver of Montgomery as president.

The VHS has long lent its support to the formation of local societies—because of a lack of knowledge or of a lack of demand, many manuscripts and articles of historical value have left the State.

With the activities of such groups as that in Franklin County can be built a knowledge and appreciation of local government, local history and local connections with the broad story of development of American civilization. All our national institutions and ideals are rooted in the history of our localities. Local

background based on local history is a sound foundation for understanding and appreciation of how America became what it is today. As has often been said, we can only plan our future by a complete knowledge of our past.

We should like to include news of other historical societies, if you will send it to us. It would seem that all of us would profit by an interchange of ideas.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

You will be glad to know that we have reached a total membership of 973. Our goal is 1,000—so let's have those proposals.

VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY STATE HOUSE MONTPELIER
Leon S. Gay, President; Earle W. Newton, Director.
Telephone: Montpelier 1500, Extension 39.

VHS *News and Notes*
VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Montpelier, Vermont

Sec. 34.66
P. L. & R.

VHS *News and Notes*

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER ISSUED BY THE VERMONT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 1 MARCH, 1950 NUMBER 7

MONTPELIER IN THE YEARS 1837 - 1838

This illustration of the Society's second diorama depicts Montpelier at the time of the birth of George Dewey, the Vermont admiral who led the United States Navy in the victorious battle of Manila in 1898.

Let's examine the scene, which was carefully reconstructed by the Pitman Studio of Cambridge, Massachusetts, from all the photos and references we could supply them. Months of detailed and conscientious work were consumed before they were ready to set up the diorama in the Museum.

There is State Street, and impressive as it was on December 26, 1838, the day of Dewey's birth, the second State House, with its pounded granite walk and copper roof and dome. It was built on the same site of the present State House and with the same general design, but we note that Ceres had not yet appeared. The fence as shown in the original drawing of Ammi B. Young was much different and the problem was to reconstruct it from photographs of the period. The granite which went into the structure was hauled over from the Barre quarries by trains of four horses and two oxen, at a cost of about $134,000. This second State House was gutted by fire after it had been in use only about twenty years.